

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boundary Commission for England publishes final recommendations for new Parliamentary constituencies

28 June 2023

The Boundary Commission for England has today published its final recommendations for new constituency boundaries. This follows submission of its final recommendations report to the Speaker of the House of Commons yesterday, and that report now being laid before Parliament.

The Commission has now fulfilled its statutory responsibilities, and the submission of the report and its publication ends the Commission's involvement in the 2023 Boundary Review.

Secretary to the Commission, Tim Bowden, said, 'The recommendations we have published today mark the end of a thorough and consultative process to build the new map of Parliamentary constituencies. We have taken into account over 60,000 public comments, travelled the country, and heard many passionate views about how best to reflect local community ties in our recommendations. We are confident that our final recommendations are the best reflection of the statutory rules Parliament has set us. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has participated in the 2023 Boundary Review.'

The Government now has four months to bring forward an Order to give effect to the final recommendations.

The final recommendations can be viewed on the Commission's website at https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/

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Notes to editors

1) The Boundary Commission for England is an independent and impartial advisory body, constituted under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. It is responsible for conducting reviews of UK Parliament constituencies in England and making recommendations to Parliament. The reviews for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are the responsibility of separate Commissions in those parts of the United Kingdom.

2) The statutory framework for how a review of constituencies must be conducted was most recently changed by the <u>Parliamentary Constituencies Act</u> <u>2020</u>.

3) The key changes made by this Act are summarised in <u>our news release</u>, published 16 December 2020. These include retaining a total of 650 constituencies across the UK; an additional 'protected' constituency of Ynys Môn (Anglesey); and the removal of Parliamentary debates from the process, meaning that future draft Orders will go directly to the Privy Council.

4) The Act also requires the Commission to base this review on electorate data from 2 March 2020. According to the UK's electorate figures published on 5 January 2021 by the <u>Office for National Statistics</u>, each constituency that we recommend must contain no less than 69,724 Parliamentary electors, and no more than 77,062 (except in England for two 'protected' constituencies for the Isle of Wight). England will be allocated 543 constituencies for the new review, which constitutes an increase of ten constituencies.

5) The Commission began the 2023 Review in January 2021. It issued its initial proposals in June 2021, and consulted on them for eight weeks. A secondary consultation period began in February 2022 and lasted six weeks. During this consultation 32 public hearings across England were convened. The final four week consultation on the revised proposals began in November 2022. Over 64,000 public comments were received during these consultations. The BCE reported its final recommendations to the Speaker of the House of Commons on 27 June 2023.

6) The report and the final recommendations could not be published until the Speaker had laid the report before Parliament. This happened on 28 June 2023 and the Boundary Commission then published the report and its contents.

7) It is now for the Government to bring forward an Order that would give effect to the final recommendations. The Government has four months to bring the Order forward and present it to the Privy Council. Once the Order has been made, the final recommendations will be implemented at the next General Election thereafter.

8) Our Guide to the Review, which explains the statutory framework and policies followed by the Commission in conducting the Review, is available to read on our website <u>here</u>.

9) We have published a key facts document – pdf and in excel format which sets out the changes for the final recommendations for each region.

10) For general enquiries contact 020 7276 1102 or email information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk